



Rockwood Stone News

Rockwood-Stone Pastoral Charge

The United Church of Canada

Visit our website at www.rockwoodstoneunitedchurches.com

May 2023

Minister: Rev. Heather Leffler

hleffler@rogers.com

519-265-7385 or text 519-573-9642

Office:

Messages are monitored virtually.

rockwoodstoneuc@gmail.com

519-856-4160



"Live, Love, Laugh"

Rockwood United Church

119 Harris St.

Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0



Connect with us on Facebook at
Rockwood-Stone

for Contemplation and Conversation, updates
and reminders about upcoming events.



*"The little church with
a big heart"*

Stone United Church

5370 Fourth Line

Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0

Join us for Worship...

on **Sundays** at **9:45 am** at **Stone** and on **Zoom**
and at **11:15 am** at **Rockwood** and on **Zoom**.

To receive the **Announcements** on **Thursdays** and
Contemplation and Conversation on **Sundays**
each week, contact the office.

If you don't have email, we can provide printed copies.

Sunday, June 11 join us to celebrate
Rockwood's 156th Anniversary
with **Worship and Lunch**
at **10 am**, on **Zoom** and at **Rockwood**.

Our guest **Natasha Luth** from the Queer Christian
Community of the Ecumenical Campus Ministry at
the UofG, will speak about her personal experience
as a Queer Christian and the importance of a
continued church community within that identity.

**Following worship, we will vote on becoming
an Affirming Pastoral Charge.**

Saturday, June 3 at **10 am** at **Stone** join us if you
have questions or would like more information.

Summer Worship Schedule 2023

All services will begin at **10:00 am**.

Zoom will open at **9:45 am**.

Sunday	Church	Minister
June 25	Stone	Lisa Leffler
July 2	Rockwood	Lisa Leffler
July 9	Stone	Lisa Leffler
July 16	Rockwood	Rev. Heather Leffler
July 23	Stone	Rev. Heather Leffler
July 30	Rockwood	Rev. Heather Leffler
August 6	Stone	Rev. Heather Leffler
August 13	Rockwood	Rev. Heather Leffler
August 20	Stone	Rev. Heather Leffler
August 27	Rockwood	Lisa Leffler
September 3	Stone	Lisa Leffler

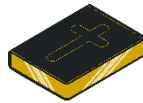
For pastoral concerns, to share ideas about
how we can connect when we are apart,
or just to talk, contact Rev. Heather Leffler
at 519-265-7385, text 519-573-9642 or
hleffler@rogers.com.

If you would like a copy of the worship slides each
Sunday, you can also email Heather.

Tuesday, May 16 join us for

Bible Study

at 7:30 pm on Zoom.



Ask questions, share ideas and make connections between the Word of God and our lives, as we continue our study of Hebrews.

Wednesday, May 17,

Genesis Book Club

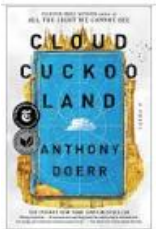
at 7:30 pm, at Stone and on Zoom

join us for a thoughtful,

thought-provoking discussion of

Cloud Cuckoo Land,

by Anthony Doerr.



May 18 and every other Thursday

For Women: come to **Tea and Talk**

from 10 am to 12 noon, in Rockwood.

Enjoy coffee, tea, goodies and this time together.



Wednesday, May 24, Stone will be holding a

Roast Ham Takeout Dinner.

The meal will include roast ham, scalloped potatoes, bean salad, a bun and dessert.

Meals will be delivered between 5 and 7 pm.

Cost of the meal is \$20.00. Please contact Edie Ward at 519-856-4765 or edieward45@gmail.com before **May 19 or until sold out.**

May 25 and every other Thursday,

For Men: you are invited to

Coffee Connections

from 10 am to 11 am, on Zoom.



Bring your coffee (or tea) and snacks and join in the conversation and fellowship!

Saturday, May 27 from 8 to 11 am at Rockwood

plan to attend the

Country Breakfast



Bring your family, friends and neighbours for a delicious breakfast and lively conversation. Breakfast is \$10 per person for scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, potato casserole, toast, juice, coffee or tea.

Spiritual Saturdays

Join us on **May 27** and the last Saturday of each month at **Stone** and on **Zoom** from 1 to 3:30 pm

Please contact Lisa Leffler lleffler@live.ca by the Wednesday to let her know if you are coming to receive the prayer materials. Join us to share our stories and reflect on our prayer time.

Everyone is welcome.



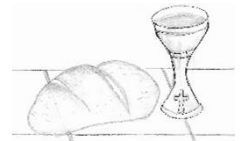
Communion will be celebrated

on **Pentecost, Sunday, May 28**

at 10 am

at **Stone** and on **Zoom**

followed by our



Pastoral Charge Picnic

Enjoy music of our combined choir, celebrate communion and share a potluck picnic lunch and activities. Bring your favourite food to share, your own cutlery, plates, and lawn chairs. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Fridays, June 16, July 21, and August 19

Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun

beginning at 6 pm, at **Rockwood**

Join us for dinner, activities, conversation, a craft, and casual time of worship. Contact Heather at hleffler@rogers.com or 519-265-7385 by the Wednesday before if you plan to attend.

Sunday, June 4 at 9:45 am at **Stone**

join us for a **Celebration of the UCW.**

Sunday, June 4 you are invited to the

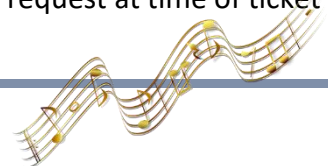
Chimes 15th Anniversary Celebration and **Fundraiser** at **Rockwood.**

Dinner and Show: \$20. Pulled pork dinner starts at 5:30 pm with the show to follow.

Show only: \$5 (payable at the door): 6:45 pm

Purchase tickets from Marcia Haworth

cmhawort@sentex.net . Vegetarian or Gluten free options available upon request at time of ticket purchase.



Stone UC Canadian Foodgrains Growing Project

The seeds have arrived, and spring is here! It's time to start thinking about how you wish to participate in this year's "growing" project. Back, by popular demand, will be friendly competitions for the heaviest pumpkin, smallest miniature pumpkin, tallest sunflower, biggest sunflower head and most flowers on a stalk. Following good results in 2022, also back are categories for zucchini (longest and heaviest). Fingers crossed for adequate rain and hopefully there will be from interested farmers, their tallest corn stalk!

Did you know that sunflowers are a symbol of hope and peace, and the official flower of Ukraine? Unfortunately, one year later, Ukraine still needs the world's help. We have lots of seeds, so we encourage you to grow some as a show of support.

Details of our proposed mid-summer zucchini event and annual October wrap up will be provided as we finalize them.

Contact Barb Parker at bm1parker@gmail.com to place your seed(s) request and arrange for delivery or pickup.

Donations to our project can be made over the summer using any of the Stone donation options.



Thank You

Your faithfulness through PAR, e-transfers, Canada Helps and postdated cheques is keeping our finances stable and allowing us to continue to serve God in our church communities and the world.

How can I continue to support our churches?

1. **PAR:** To sign up for monthly Pre-Authorized Remittances or to change your givings, contact Bill Allen at stoneuc.treasurer@gmail.com or 519-841-4170 for **Stone** or Amanda Hunter-Anthony at rockwooduc.treasurer@gmail.com or 519-856-1129 for **Rockwood**.
2. **E-transfer Stone** at stoneuc.treasurer@gmail.com or **Rockwood** at rockwooduc.treasurer@gmail.com.
In the memo, please designate whether your offering is for your church, M&S and/or other and include your contact information.
3. **Canada Helps** is a Canadian registered charity that enables other charities to receive online gifts. Go to Stone <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/80455/> or Rockwood <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/48574> to make a credit card donation. You can designate your offering to the church, M&S and/or other in the message box.
4. **Cheques** can be sent to
Stone United Church,
PO Box 57 Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0 or
Rockwood United Church,
119 Harris St., Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0

To join **Zoom** for **Worship and Meetings** click on the link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6995074926?pwd=eTk1T1d0V2NXV2NzIzUjU0OT09> . To join by phone, dial +1-647-374-4685 or +1-647-558-0588 and enter **Meeting ID: 699 507 4926** and **Password: 20120701**.

If you are having trouble connecting to Zoom or would like help trying it for the first time, contact Heather Leffler at 519-265-7385, hleffler@rogers.com or text 519-573-9642.

Letters, Notes and Emails ...

Brothers, Sisters and Siblings in Christ,

As I ponder Jesus' ministry, more and more I realize how much it was about community. He drew together a group of fishermen, tax collectors, businessmen and women, Greeks and Jews, people from the margins of society and Herod's court, soldiers and civilians. While he taught in synagogues from time to time as a visiting rabbi, most of his interactions were in the community. At a wedding feast in Cana, on hillsides in Capernaum, Galilee and Gergesa, beside and on the sea in Galilee, at a well in Samaria, on roadsides in Jericho, Jerusalem and Emmaus, in Bethany, Caesaria Philippi and the Transjordan, Jesus taught, challenged, comforted, fed and healed people. Wherever community gathered, he offered God's love, forgiveness and hope to people of all faiths and no faith.

Our wonderful times of worship, study and fellowship in our churches are like the time Jesus spent with his closest companions. They are times to learn and grow in our faith and feel the Spirit's presence as we share our joys and sorrows, comfort and support each other.

We have always reached beyond our churches to care for others financially through our partners, and individually – volunteering in many ways in our communities. As more and more people describe themselves as having no religion and we are becoming more attuned to the challenges faced by our Black, First Nations, South Asian and LGBTQ2S+ neighbours, people of other faiths and refugees, those experiencing mental illness, poverty and homelessness, I hear us being called to be in community in new ways.

Stone's Wellness Series not only shared valuable information with people online and in church, the recordings continue to reach people on YouTube. Rockwood's Country Breakfast offers good food and wonderful community.

All around us churches are exploring new ways to be involved in our neighbourhood. Organizations like the Halo Canada Project, Trinity Centres Foundation and our United Churches Kindred Works

are providing professional support to churches to become community hubs, develop housing projects and partner with our neighbours.

May we continue to find ways to respond to Jesus' invitation to go make a difference in the world.

Blessings,

Heather Leffler

May 2023

A Message from the Pastoral Charge Board Chair

Dear Friends,

Time seems to be flying by faster than ever. Here we are in May already! Our churches have been very active this past year and it's great to get back closer to normal, pre-covid times. As our regular church services switch into our summer schedules, I would like to draw your attention to the pastoral charge meeting which will be held right after the Rockwood Anniversary service at Rockwood and on Zoom on Sunday, June 11th.

This meeting will be held so members and adherents from both churches can vote on becoming an affirming church at this time. We will be adhering to the United Church guidelines that require 75% of the voting members to accept the motion. There will be an information session on Saturday, June 3rd at 10 am at Stone and also on Zoom, for anyone wanting to ask more questions or get more clarification on affirmation.

This is an exciting time for our churches. A lot of work has been done by many members to learn and understand what becoming an affirming church means. We are grateful for these discernment circle members for their time and wisdom to bring us all to this point. Please plan to attend either in person or on Zoom in order to participate in this significant step for our churches.

I wish you all a great summer and hope you have lots of opportunity to relax and enjoy family and friends and the beauty around us.

Take care,

Randy Dewey

Committees and Groups ...

Rockwood and Stone Worship and Faith Formation

Submitted by Barb Eley and Brian Mack

The Worship and Faith Formation committee gives thanks to God for the actions and support of **everyone** in our congregations who help us to fulfil the call of the United Church: "Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice."

Faith Formation

- **Lenten Study** – An email was sent to past participants to let them know that we would not have a formal study this year and to thank Karen Richardson for faithfully leading for so many years.
- **Lent Easter Congregational Pack** – Thanks to Sarah Leffler for the activities; Brian Mack for the prayers; Lisa Leffler for the questions; Heather Leffler for the reflections; Liz Guthrie, the Leffler's, Barb Parker and Tammy Smits for the chocolates, hot chocolate and tea; Karen Richardson for her editing and the volunteers who prepared and delivered the packs.
- **Stone Wellness Series** – The sessions were well received despite some challenges with the weather and internet. March 4 at 10 am Stop the Stigma: Farmers and Mental Health with Tim May was held online because of the weather. March 22 at 7:30 pm Advanced Care Planning Who Will Speak for You? with Rosslyn Bentley and April 1 at 10 am Safeguarding & Crime Prevention for Everyone with Brad Hull from the OPP Auxiliary were held in the sanctuary with people joining on Zoom. April 12 at 7:30 pm An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure was held in the Reading Room and on Zoom. The last two events were April 29 at 10 am Computers and Seniors with Kevin Ariss and on May 3 at 7:30 pm Cyber Safety and Human Trafficking Prevention with Crime Stoppers

Guelph Wellington and OPP. Thanks to Tammy Smits for setting up Eventbrite, we had participation from people within and outside our congregations.

- **Spiritual Saturday** – Gatherings continue in hybrid format the last Saturday of each month focussing on the theme: Called to Community.
- **Bible Study** – Focussing on the Book of Hebrews, discussion continues on Zoom on Tuesday nights each week.
- **Music groups** – Our dedicated combined choir continues to meet at Stone most Thursday nights and the **Chimes Choir** and **Eramosa Ensemble** gather regularly. We look forward to celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Chimes Choir on the evening of June 4th.
- **Book Club** – Literary enthusiasts continue to meet on Zoom on the third Wednesday of each month. See the website for upcoming books to be discussed.
- **Tea and Talk** continues to meet every other Thursday in person at Rockwood from 10 am to 12 noon while **Coffee Connections** meets on Zoom from 10 am to 11 am on the other weeks.

Worship Highlights

- **Sunday, January 1 New Year's Day** – Worship was on Zoom at 10 am led by the Worship and Faith Formation Committee. The service focused on the Holy Family as refugees in Egypt with an on-line reading of *The Refuge* by Anne Booth and Rosslyn Bentley speaking about our experience of supporting the Al Ahmad Al Janoud family.
- **Sunday, January 8** – Lisa Leffler led worship while Rev. Leffler was on administrative leave to prepare the Annual Report.
- **Sunday, February 5** – Stone's Worship and Annual Meeting was held on Zoom. Rockwood committee members led worship based on the United Church 2022 service focusing on Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice. In Offering Praise, Lisa Leffler shared a reflection on becoming affirming and people were invited to respond to it in the conversation time. Stone

committee members and Lisa Leffler led the same service on **February 12**. Thanks to Barb Parker, Liz Guthrie and Tammy Smits for helping Rev Leffler plan this service.

- **Sunday, February 12** – Heather did not feel well enough to lead worship in person at Rockwood. There were challenges with Zoom in the sanctuary, so Sherol Steinberg led the service and a time of visioning in the message time. Heather was present for the service and Rockwood's Annual Meeting on Zoom.
- **1st Sunday of Lent, February 26 and Palm Sunday, April 2 Communion** was celebrated in both churches.
- **World Day of Prayer March 3** – Six people – two from St. John's and four from Rockwood and Stone attended the service at Rockwood; a number of people from Stone attended a similar service at Speedside.
- **March 5** – Lisa Leffler led worship and used the prayers of the people from the World Day of Prayer service.
- **Good Friday, April 7 at 10 am** – We welcomed members from Barrie Hill and Speedside to this service at Rockwood. Lisa Leffler shared in leadership with Heather. Two members from Eramosa PC joined in the combined choir and one person read. Thanks to the choir a time of fellowship followed the service.
- **Easter Sunday, April 9** – Stone's service was held in a circle in the Jeanne Jackson Reading Room because there was no heat in the sanctuary.

Upcoming

- **May 14 – Rural Life Sunday**
- **Pentecost May 28 – Picnic and Communion-** Combined service at 10 am at Stone
- **June 4 – UCW Celebration** at Stone
- **June 11 – Rockwood's Anniversary** – 10 am combined service with Natasha Luth who is the coordinator of the Queer Christian Community at the University of Guelph as guest speaker.

- **Summer Worship – 10 am**, alternating churches, beginning with **Stone** on **June 25**.

Did you know?

- **Rockwood Stone United Churches YouTube Channel** – We have between 10 and 20 views of worship services each week. The choir video from Good Friday had 88 views. Wellness series videos had between 20 and 50 views.
- **Offering Praise** has included recorded and live music with pictures, Affirming presentations and videos from World Day of Prayer and the United Church.
- **Hybrid Worship** – We continue to offer hybrid worship at 9:45 am at Stone and leave Zoom open through Rockwood's service. This allows Lisa to blend parts from both services in the video posted on the website.

Holidays and Study Leave – Heather will be on Study Leave Sunday, May 14 and Holidays Sunday, June 25, July 2 for 2022-2023 and July 9, August 27 and September 3 for 2023-2024. Lisa Leffler will provide pulpit supply these weeks.

Rockwood Trustees

Submitted by Rosslyn Bentley

The Trustees met with Andrew Vince of Royal City Realty who has been engaged to sell the parking lot at 112 Harris St.

A counteroffer was made to a prospective purchaser. Approval of the sale was received from the Congregational Support Commission. There is a due diligence clause. The sale will close at the end of May.

Quotes are being sought for construction of the new parking lot.

The Council directed the Trustees to apply for a grant from the Relief Fund for Thriving Congregations which was set up to help alleviate the pressures of debt and for a grant from the UPFund to offset some the costs of upgrading the kitchen.

Stone Trustees

Submitted by Heather Leffler

The Trustees met with Property and Finance in April with regards to two GIC's that came due. It was decided to reinvest them with TD Wealth for 2 years at 4.49% interest.

Affirming Discernment Circle

Submitted by Lisa Leffler

The Affirming Church Discernment Circle met to plan a PIE Day gathering in March. People gathered in person and on Zoom on March 14 to reflect on what it would mean for Rockwood Stone to be affirming and to hear stories from our guests from Parkminster United who have been affirming for many years.

We sent our Action Plan, Vision Statement and Marriage Policy to Affirm United and after incorporating a few of their suggestions they were accepted. We can now vote on if we would like to be a part of Affirm United. The Affirming Church Discernment Circle recommended to the Board that we vote in June.



Rockwood Stone Ministry and Personnel

Submitted by Brian Mack

Ministry and Personnel met on March 8, 2023 via Zoom. The committee reviewed the role of Ministry and Personnel and expectations concerning reporting to the Board, our Councils, and to the congregations.

Rev. Leffler outlined briefly the support that she is giving to new initiatives re: reaching out into the community (Wellness Workshops at Stone); her support of pastoral care teams as required; her inclusion of more people in the writing of Contemplation and Conversation pieces; her encouragement of members of Worship and Faith Formation to contribute ideas for services and to offer suggestions for themes and support materials for inclusion in the Lenten Congregational Packs.

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee acts under the guidelines of The Manual of The United Church of Canada. The committee functions around three roles, which are the consultative and supportive role, the healthy relationships role, and the supervisory role. We provide resources and support for the staff and the community of faith with respect to any issue affecting staff of our church, including ministry personnel and lay employees. The committee works to build positive and trusting relationships between staff and members and adherents of the community of faith. If members of the community of faith have praise or concerns about staff, both ministry personnel and lay employees, these can be shared in signed correspondence with the committee. Undocumented allegations, anonymous complaints, and rumours will not be considered. Issues will be considered confidentially by the M&P Committee, who will recommend action.

Rockwood and Stone United Churches are blessed with staff who are committed to their work, and we are thankful for this work in our faith communities.

The Committee next meets on June 14 via Zoom.

Rockwood Stone
Finance & Stewardship
Submitted by Heather Leffler

The Finance and Stewardship Committee meet in April and received updates from the Stone and Rockwood Treasurers. Bill Allen and Amanda Hunter-Anthony have updated the forms on Canada Helps to facilitate donations and reduce fees.

Trustee Treasurer Peter Guthrie reported a balance of \$157,000 in the Manse Fund following \$11,125 being transferred to the pastoral charge in February. This is half the budgeted transfer for 2023.

Roy emailed a report to April 26, 2023. There is a balance of \$21,691.48 in the Pastoral Charge account which includes the funds transferred from the Manse Fund, and for the Sabbatical.

It was decided that the old office computer will be sent to Habitat's Restore. Rockwood's old laptop will be given to the Rockwood Treasurer.

The committee reviewed how and where financial records are stored. It was decided that invoices will be forwarded to the Treasurers and deleted from the Pastoral Charge gmail.

Bill Allen and Sherol Steinberg were thanked for the personal letters they included with the income tax receipts.

Many people are on PAR and sending offering and other funds by e-transfer or mailing cheques. We will continue to have the offering plates at the back at Rockwood and in the narthex and on the communion table at Stone.

Heather shared information about grants available from PTCC-Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation.

Stone Property & Finance
Submitted by Jack Ward

Cogeco has installed the cable line into the Church and it works well.

Water sample was done March 30, 2023.

Take out dinners are being planned by Committee members Marg Baker, Liz Guthrie, Edie Ward and Barb Parker. First dinner planned will be May 24th serving ham, scalloped potatoes, bean salad and desert.

Yard work cleanup will be planned soon.

Windows will be cleaned when the weather gets warmer.

Maple Syrup fundraiser during March and April was another success. Thanks to all who helped with pickup and deliveries and those who placed orders.

The twenty-year-old oil furnace which heats the sanctuary was deemed to be unusable during our yearly furnace servicing. We have obtained quotes for a propane furnace and a hybrid electric/heat pump furnace. The hybrid option is more expensive but due to its low carbon footprint, it may be eligible for a grant. We have applied for a grant of up to \$5,000 and will be making a decision in the coming weeks.

Financial Update submitted by Bill Allen

The following are the financial results to the end of April: Total givings for general church operations **\$14,750**, M&S givings **\$2,740** and **\$1,000** in support of Turkey/Syria earthquake relief. The Maple Syrup fundraiser netted **\$3,128**. Total income to the end of April was **\$21,789**.

A total of **\$15,812** was transferred to the Pastoral Charge to cover Charge expenses, UCC Assessment and reserve for Minister's Sabbatical. Operating expenses for the Church totaled **\$5,129**. At the end of April, there was a net deficit from operations of **\$(3,669)**.

The cost for installation of the audio-visual system in the church to allow simultaneous in-person and Zoom worship was \$7,000. An United Possibilities (UP) Fund grant of \$5,000 supported the purchases for a net cost to our Church of \$2,000.

Financially, the Church is in a very good position with a total of **\$51,325** in General Fund investments and **\$34,713** in Oakes Fund investments. Recently, two GIC's were re-invested for a two-year period at 4.5%.

Property and Finance

Submitted by Sherol Steinberg

Thank you to all who support the church with their resources and time. Interest in renting Day Hall has increased and it is being rented a couple of times a month with bookings going into July.

The Church Breakfast began again in January 2023 and will run the last week of each month until May. There will be the usual summer hiatus and will return in the fall. Thanks to all the volunteers and all those who have come to the breakfasts, we have not had any breakfast with less than 70 enjoying the wonderful food and fellowship. We have had much positive feedback on the return of the Country Breakfast.

We partnered with the Breakfast Committee to do a fundraiser to benefit upgrading the kitchen and have applied to the UPFund Grant. We have purchased a new stove and are looking to add a second new stove, stainless steel prep table, storage, range hoods and ducting, stainless steel backsplash behind the stoves and potentially new countertops.

Kevin has fixed the hole going through the kitchen wall for utilities and has overseen installation of an outdoor plug on Day Hall. Lefflers have donated a file cabinet for the choir music which has been moved into the office – with thanks to Barb Eley, Ollie Darcie and John Leffler for their efforts. The music cupboard has been repurposed and Kevin has made wonderful sturdy new shelves that are now used for storing larger kitchen items that are primarily used for the Country Breakfasts. We have contracted to have the stained-glass window in the narthex fixed.

A Special Thank You to Cees Braamse and Kevin Anthony for snow removal (especially after the tremendous blizzards with exceptional snow fall) and grass cutting at the church and the house and for having willing hands to complete small maintenance tasks throughout the year on a shoestring budget and lots of creativity. Thanks to Cees, Kevin, Liam and Al Jay for the removal and clean up of the ash tree on the front lawn that was becoming a hazard.

Thanks to all for decorating the outside and inside of the church for Christmas.

Thank you to Colleen for decorating the church throughout the year-with help of her minions.

Thank you to Kevin, Cees, Marcia and Chris for taking on putting out the garbage and recycling weekly.

The Rockwood firefighters thank the congregation for allowing them to use the house for fire fighting exercises.

Thanks to Darryl Nichol for his hard work on behalf of the church selling and repurposing items from the house, and for all his work with the engineers and township to facilitate the permits and sale of parking lot. There is an offer on the lot, and we look forward to its sale.

Stone Pastoral Care and Fellowship

Submitted by John Leffler

On January 17, Karen Richardson led the opening devotions for the Stone Council meeting.

Pastoral Care served Communion on February 26 and hosted coffee hour after worship on April 30.

Pastoral Care will pick up the following responsibilities due to the closing of the UCW.

- 50th and 60th anniversary cards and flowers purchased and delivered
- 90th birthday cards and small gifts
- Wedding showers or gifts for couples in Stone United Church
- Funeral lunches
- Birthday and anniversary catering.

Thank you to the Pastoral Care and Fellowship members for sending cards, keeping the phone and membership lists up to date and keeping our Minister informed of life events within our congregation.

Rockwood Outreach

Submitted by Marcia Haworth

We got the year off to a flying start with our Food Fixes. The Robbie Burns dinner and lunch were big successes and this offering also presented us with the opportunity to cater a meal for 11 at a private home. This netted us \$595. Next came the crazy PIE (Public, Intentional, Explicit) Day event which unbelievably made \$540 for Anishnabeg Outreach's Spirit Bundles and East Wellington Community Services food bank. We are so grateful for the support and generosity of our congregations and their love of food.

In early January we finished distributing our accumulated 2022 funds to our partners as follows:

- \$1000 was donated to AO of which \$750 was suggested for their beading initiative and \$250 for Spirit Bundles, but they are welcome to use the funds wherever they are needed most.
- \$850 was donated to Women in Crisis.
- We spent \$470 on smaller denomination grocery gift cards to be handed out to EWCS food bank clients.

So far this year we have spent \$300 on the supply of Foodland and gas gift cards. These are available to help out drop-ins.

Now that Country Breakfasts are underway again, we have given breakfast gift cards to EWCS and there is also a supply for drop-ins.

In February we responded to a foodbank request for protein type freezer food and are grateful as always to our friends at MacMillans for their discounts

On 4 June we are catering the Chimes Choir fund raiser with half the proceeds going to the general fund and half to Outreach. In the fall we hope to host a Pub Grub and Quiz Night which should be lots of fun.

Western Ontario Waterways

Submitted by Heather Leffler

When Western Ontario Waterways (WOW), Antler River Watershed and Horseshoe Falls Regional Councils were formed the decision was made to share staff and one governance model. Plans were made to evaluate these decisions after three years but with the change in the date of General Council the evaluation was moved to 2023. Regional Council representatives, Board and Council Chairpersons, Ministry Personnel and members of WOW Executive and Commissions were asked to respond to surveys as part of the evaluation. Bill Allen and Jenny Stephens have been carrying out this evaluation and will report their findings in June.

Communities of Faith were asked to share a video inviting members of their churches to consider volunteering to serve on the Executive or a Commission in WOW. Lay people can also serve as Pastoral Charge Supervisors where a church doesn't have a minister or a Liaison for a community of faith in a search process.

The Regional Council Spring Meeting will be May 26 and 27 in Port Elgin.

